

To: Ventura, Dominic[Ventura.Dominic@epa.gov]
From: Linden, melissa
Sent: Mon 1/13/2014 9:23:48 PM
Subject: Fw: HOTSITE update WEST VIRGINIA
[Copy of Water Data Jan 13 2014.xls](#)
[WV - How to flush.pdf](#)

From: Ferrell, Mark
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2014 4:19:49 PM
To: Linden, melissa; Matlock, Dennis
Cc: Storch, Debbie
Subject: FW: HOTSITE update WEST VIRGINIA

Mark Ferrell

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From: Ferrell, Mark
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2014 4:10 PM
To: Garvin, Shawn
Cc: Burns, Francis; Snyder, Raquel; Distefano, Nichole; Miller, Linda; White, Terri-A; Casillas, Laura; Capacasa, Jon
Subject: HOTSITE update WEST VIRGINIA

Updates including information for today noon presser at Governor Tomblin's office. Participants included Randy Huffman (DEP) Karen Bowling (DHHR) Rep. Nick Rahall (D-3WV), Jeff McIntyre (WVAWC) and the National Guard.

* The "DO NOT USE" water advisory in place for 300,000 West Virginians will begin the lifting process today by zone and according to proximity to the water plant. Area hospitals were flushed first this morning before it was announced that Zone 1 (where I live) was given the go-ahead to begin.

*Water Company official said 90% of their samples are now are well below the health risk level

for HCHM. Natl Guard Gen. Hoyer said over 600 samples have been taken and 264 analyzed. This mornings reading was said to be .031 at the intake and .006 at the other end.

***Latest water sample results are attached to this email. (xl)**

*** Copy of "How To Flush" protocol being distributed by WVAMC is attached to this email. (pdf)**

*The public can check maps to find out when zone they are in and when to begin flushing at this site: <http://www.amwater.com/wvaw/about-us/news.html> or by calling the Hotline number at 855-390-4569. Local county health department officials are also fanning out into the communities to provide counsel and assistance.

*Availabilty of bottled water and water buffalos continues to improve, FEMA and Natl Guard have done a commendable job. Grocery stores are re-supplied, initial "consumer panic" has subsided and even a few restaurants and bars are slowly reopening once their potable water plan has been approved by local health department.

*Some of us are looking a bit "Braveheart" by now but we're seeing remarkable community cooperation and coordinating assistance from local churches and NGO's in distributing potable water and checking in on homebounds and seniors.

*Chemical Safety Board arribed on scene at 11am and began their investigation pursuant to Sen. Rockefeller's request.

*Print stories reagrding Freedom Industries Inc"s controversial past continue to emerge:

Freedom Executive Had Felonies

<http://www.wvgazette.com/News/201401120056>

Freedom execs longtime buddies

<http://www.wvgazette.com/News/201401100119>

POLITICS

The Governor and other Administration officials continue to push back against reporter's questions about the spill of this chemical being a coal-related incident.

West Virginia Coal Association vice president Jason Bostic said this: *This is a chemical spill accident. It just so happens that the chemical has some applications to the coal industry, just that fact alone shouldn't cause people to point fingers at the coal industry.* Bostic said the coal industry is very carefully regulated by the state Department of Environmental Protection and several federal agencies that ensure it is safe from the very first step in opening a mine to ongoing operations.

"The environmental risk that's associated with coal mining, we feel it's well regulated," Bostic said.

The initial reaction from the environmental groups has been quite different. Appalachian Voices said this:

News reports of Thursday's spill of a coal-processing chemical into West Virginia's Elk River—and emergency orders to thousands of people to not drink or use their tap water—are currently focused on the still-unknown potential for direct harm to human health.

But the widespread disruption caused by the spill raises other important questions, including: How could a relatively small-volume spill in one small river cut off drinking water access to roughly 300,000 people across eight counties—16% of the state's entire population?

An increasing number of private wells in southwestern and central West Virginia, where the spill occurred, have been contaminated by decades of coal mining and processing. One result has been an ongoing expansion of municipal water systems to rural communities that would otherwise rely on well water.

At the same time, shrinking tax revenue and declining investments in public infrastructure have compelled localities to contract with private companies like American Water to provide drinking water services. Driven by profit margins, companies have aggressively consolidated their businesses, leading them to serve ever larger distribution networks from only a handful of treatment plants and drinking water intakes, as is the case with yesterday's spill.

Reporters questions at these press conferences have been technical in nature - what level is safe? how do we know? who is making that determination? what is the time frame?

Very soon, as everyone gets back online with fresh water, the questions are certain to become more process-oriented. WVDEP Randy Huffman was asked pointedly today why the DEP didn't seem to know anything about the chemical being stored by Freedom Industries. Eyebrows raised when he explained "DEP does not have the statutory authority to ask what's being stored at tank farms or to inspect them."

Public sentiment was clearly agitated by the revelation over the weekend that this site had not been inspected by DEP in over 10 years.

With the state legislature back in Charleston (the statehouse is in Zone 1) these regulatory issues are certain to get some attention. Air-tight language on the EPA's statutory authority in these situations will be very useful once it is vetted. (see tweet below)

TWITTER - today

[Kenwardjr @Kenwardjr](#)

BTW ... Obama EPA is still refusing to provide anyone from their end to discuss the WV chemical spill ... very typical for EPA I'm afraid.

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